thus resulting in shortfall in rain in the catchment areas of hydel projects;

(b) whether the Kerala Government has sent a proposal for allotment of forest land to encroachers and a Minister of that State recently discussed the matter with he Union Minister of Environment and Forests for obtaining relaxation from the provisions of the Forest Act; and

(c) what are the details of the proposal of the State Government and the action being taken by the Central Government to stop further deforestation in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) According to report received from the State Government, 28588.159 ha. of forest lands are under unauthorised occupation of farmers since before 1977.

(b) Yes, Sir, but the Minister from Kerala met the Minister of State (Environment and Forests) to seek expeditious decision on the proposal, and not relaxation of any provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(c) In July, 1986, the State Government of Kerala have sent a proposal to the Government of India for their approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 28588.159 ha. of forest lands under encroachment by about 50,000 families. In this matter, as in regard to all such matters the Central Government will take action which will check further deforestation.

Provision of Government Accommodation to Naval Officers in Bombay

2173. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of naval Commissioned Officers stationed in Bombay;

(b) what is the number of such officers who have been provided with Government accommodation; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to provide accommodation to those naval officers who have not been provided with Government accommodation so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) to (c) 1722 Naval Officers are stationed in Bombay as on 08th August, 1986 and all of them are provided with either Government married or single accommodation. Married accommodation is provided subject to avillability. The Officers who are unable to get married accommodation are either offered hired accommodation or permitted to hire accommodation themeselves on reimbursement basis, or offered/alloted single Government accommodation. Construction of new married accommodation is being sanctioned progressively every year subject to avilability of funds.

Fixation of Seniority of Assistants of the Ministry of Defence

2174. SHRI P. BABUL REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Defence has received any instructions from the Ministry of Personnel and Training, which is the final authority in regard to service matters, to the effect that inter-se seniority of the Assistants renominated from the Department of Petroleum may be fixed with effect from the dates they had initially joined that Department;

(b) if so, whether these instructions have been/are being implemented;

(c) if not, what are reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Ministry of Personnel and Training was again consulted on this issue; and

(e) if so, what are the details of their reply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) For the implementation of the instructions, certain clarifications have been sought from Department of Personnel and Training. On receipt of the same, further action will be taken in the matter.